BIOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTES OF

EDWARD JENNER.

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Biographical Anecdotes

OF

EDWARD JENNER, M. D. F. R. S. &c.

IT has long been a trite remark, that the History of a Philosopher is not distinguished by a variety of incident; sometimes it is so common place as to be absolutely insipid. The situations which favour anecdote and interest commonly appertain to persons migratory and unsettled, or ridiculously eccentric, or viciously imprudent. But, though the Biographical Accounts of Philosophers have no characteristicks of Novels and Books of Travels, yet it is often instructive and indicative of high mental character to watch the growth of superior intellect, the gradual developement of the bud to the extraordinary perfection and beauty of the full-blown flower, and the refined pleasures and amusements of the abstract introverted mind. Thus the most interesting part of the Life of Newton is his prefigurative boyhood; his unceasing fabrication of mills and traps; the speed, swift as light, with which he recovered lost ground; and the Herculean grasp of mind by which he only once perused an abstruse volume and held its contents firm as a vice.

An active mind, biassed by a necessity, which compels prudence, will soon acquire sound judgment, and form an able man of business. All the knowledge which he requires is experience, and a collection of facts upon which to form *data*, or his various measures. But such a man is the last from whom improvement by novel illumination is to be expected. His deity is Caution; and he worships at his temple only according to the Liturgy of the two Hierarchs, Authority and

Precedent. The high road, from which he never deviates, is, to the man of genius, a spot of tiresome identity, where nothing is to be seen but similar perspective, and bodies in automatical motion. He therefore ascends the mountain to explore the ample plain beneath for new objects of vision; or he strikes into the wood to find a shady recess, where he can mature an embryo conception. In short, the mind of a man of genius is always in a state of pregnancy or parturition; and its power of bearing offspring is bounded only by supervening disease or by death.

It is therefore in this offspring that we must trace the characteristic features of the parent; and if, in the Lives of such men as Dr. Jenner, we do not find a succession and variety of incident, it is because we cannot reasonably expect a Drama in a Philosophical Lecture. But if it be less poignant diet than the cookery of Vice, the Moralist is soothed by its healthful simplicity.

The name of JENNER is manifestly an English orthography of the foreign *Genor*, or *Genore;* a circumstance undeniably established by the Heraldry in Edmondson. A Petrus de Geneure occurs in the History of Matthew Paris*; and it is fairly presumptive that the family was denominated from some place abroad, and was introduced to England through the connexion of our early Kings with Poitou, Acquitaine, and Normandy. A foreigner sent Dr. Jenner a valuable silver cup, simply because it bore the inscription of having belonged to a person of the name of Jenner in the end of the seventeenth century. Physiognomical character must, of course, after a succession of generations, be an equivocal test; but instances can be adduced from a noble family, now existing, where a similar conformation of certain features of the face has existed for nearly a century, and the family has been always handsome†. A lady, whom Dr. Jenner met at John Julius Angerstein's, Esq. remarked how strongly Dr. Jenner's physiognomy resembled that of her own ancestor, Judge Jenner, of a family of the name, seated in Essex‡. It is presumed that a branch

* P. 668, ed. Watts.

† Mental qualities may be also hereditary. See Elliotson's Blumenback, p. 46.

‡ Sir Thomas Jenner, Knt. made Serjeant at Law 28 Nov. 1683; King's Serjeant 23 Jan. 1684, &c. *Chronica Juridicialia*, p. 207.

of this line migrated from Essex into Gloucestershire, where, in the parish of Standish, they have been found for two centuries.—On the female side the family of Dr. Jenner can be satisfactorily traced to an Anglo-Saxon family, and the Throckmortons' Baronets, as will appear plainly by the Pedigree.

The wise doctrine of the influence of a particular Providence has sustained injury, by a confusion with a false notion of Predestination; which false notion is mischievous, because mankind never consider Predestination out of a moral or religious view. The action of Providence, however, displays itself by the grand effects of petty indifferent circumstances, through which a mole-hill gradually ferments into a mountain. The fine conclusive reasoning of Sherlock, Ibbot, and others, shews, that Deity, in the perfection of wisdom, must act according to circumstances, for otherwise it cannot be perfect; and all consultation for order or method implies action upon foresight, and, of course, controul of circumstances, present and future. This idea is certainly theological; but, excluding particular relation to certain points of faith, as matters of historical fact, what is Theology but the very best kind of moral and intellectual philosophization? In this view, for life and self-agency are greater demonstrations of Deity than all the masses of matter in the universe, in the same manner as a chronometer is a finer thing than a hundred weight of brass, or a living dwarf than an Herculean corpse, the following facts are interesting.

At a very early period of the life of Dr. Jenner the foundation was probably laid for his subsequent investigations as to a Preventive of Small-Pox, by the following circumstances. He was a fine ruddy boy, and at eight years of age was, with many others, put under a preparatory process for Inoculation with the Small-Pox, by the late Mr. Holbrow, of Wotton Underedge. This preparation lasted six weeks. He was bled, to ascertain whether his blood was fine; was purged repeatedly, till he became emaciated and feeble; was kept on very low diet, small in quantity, and dosed with a diet-drink to sweeten the blood. After this barbarism of human-veterinary practice he was removed to one of the then usual inoculation stables, and haltered up with others in a terrible state of disease, although none died. By good

fortune the Doctor escaped with a mild exhibition of the disease. After this he went to Cirencester, to a school, at which he stayed half a year; and upon his return home, at the expiration of that term, he had arrived at the end of the Latin Accidence. His health not being yet quite reinstated, he was consigned to the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Clissold, at Wotton Underedge; and at the same time put under the care of an eminent physician, the late Dr. Capell. The effect of the preparation and inoculation just mentioned was this — as a child, he could never enjoy sleep, and was constantly haunted by imaginary noises; and a sensibility too acutely alive to these and sudden jars has ever since subsisted. At this time the Doctor became enamoured of Natural History; and the favourite animal to which he then directed his observation was a dormouse. By the time of his attaining to the eighth year of his age he had made a collection of nests. It is, without superstition, a noticeable incident in a biographical account, that the misery endured in the Small-Pox process should have laid the foundation for the extermination of the disease; and it is strongly indicative of a philosophical bias in the character. It exhibits impression accompanied with reflection, and a view to the removal of the evil; whereas a common man takes such incidents as usual inevitable occurrences, feels irritably, swears stoutly, and then forgets.

After leaving school, about the thirteenth year of his age, Dr. Jenner was placed under the care of Messieurs Ludlow, then eminent practitioners at Sodbury near Bristol. Here he remained six years, the hypochondriacal habit contracted by the Small-Pox still remaining, though it gradually became fainter.

A thousand years hence, probably, intelligence of every kind may be so universal, that the consequences of certain medical barbarisms in the treatment of infants may be as clearly prognosticated as those of drunkenness or extravagance. Had the Small-Pox Inoculation been in the hands of Jenner instead of Holbrow, who treated the disease as if he had been a lawyer preparing a security, the philosophical eye of the former would have detected the heavy clumsiness of the mechanism, and justly conceived that a human being could as conveniently travel in a light carriage as in a waggon. In proof of this it may be

observed that Sutton did not work with a similar sledge-hammer, nor make of a surgeon a blacksmith.

After the usual introduction into the elementary parts of the Materia Medica and Surgery, he became House-pupil to the celebrated John Hunter, and laboured with him and for him in the formation of that stupendous monument of anatomical and physiological industry and magnificence the Hunterian Museum.

From London he came to Berkeley, and there continued his anatomical and physiological researches, as well as maintained a regular scientific correspondence with his eminent Preceptor. He, in fact, was so much pleased with Dr. Jenner's taste and pursuits in Natural History that he offered him a partnership with this view, that he (John Hunter) should extend his Lectures from Anatomy and Surgery to Natural History; in which department he was desirous that Dr. Jenner should take a considerable share. So attached, however, was the Doctor to his native place, and particularly to an excellent brother *, whom, from difference of years, and the decease of his father, he rather regarded filially than fraternally, that he preferred commencing practice at Berkeley.

This he soon obtained to a great extent; and being in the habit of making anatomical preparations, dissecting and injecting, laid the foundation at Berkeley of a Museum of Natural History and Comparative Anatomy, which attracted very general notice. During this time a circumstance occurred which extended the reputation of Dr. Jenner in a very considerable degree, at least locally. A man of the name of Bailey, suffering under a strangulated hernia, was conveyed to Gloucester Infirmary. The case was Bubonocele (Inguinal Hernia), with unusual circumstances; in treating which it was indispensably necessary to deviate from the ordinary methods of operating. This operation Mr. Crump, the senior surgeon, declined through indisposition. The Pupils of the Hospital, lamenting the situation of the man, solicited Dr. Jenner to come to Gloucester, distant sixteen miles, and perform the operation. The case was exceedingly complex, and of very nice and cautious dissection. Among other incidents

* The Rev. Stephen Jenner, mentioned in the Pedigree.

in the operation, an opening into the sac was no sooner made, than the man was attacked by an impulse to vomit, which ejected upon the table on which he was placed the whole volume of intestines. His situation then required the utmost coolness, and the most adroit management. Dr. Jenner replaced the intestines in their natural and proper situations. The usual process for recovery followed, and the man survived the operation twenty years. This incident in Dr. Jenner's practice as a surgeon it is important to mention, because mean-principled men have circulated, during the Vaccine Controversy, invidious fabrications concerning the early history of Dr. Jenner, known by every contemporary resident in the vicinity to be utterly absurd, the Doctor having been ever considered a man of original mind and talents, and of growing reputation from the very commencement of his practice.

The next important incident in the life of our Philosopher was the curious investigation concerning the natural history of the Cuckoo, printed in the Philosophical Transactions for 1788, and copied from thence into various periodical journals, English and Foreign. It proved the very singular fact, that the infant cuckoo, reared from the egg in a sparrow's nest, expelled the young of that bird, by placing them upon its shoulder, on a depression, which Nature gives for the purpose, on the back of the unfledged cuckoo, and throwing them out of the nest. There are also other phænomena, never before noticed. These curious incidents are affirmed by Pennant to have eluded research from the time of Aristotle.

It was not within the Doctor's plan to notice the extraordinary aid to Divinity to be derived from this phænomenon. It shows, by a very dove-tailing analogy, the absurd practice of reasoning *a priori* concerning the conduct of Deity, and of course the unphilosophical proceedings of Infidels. The natural history of the cuckoo shows the infinite variety of the Laws of Creation, some absolute anomalies, compared with others. Who therefore can pronounce what God does, except from what he knows? All beyond is foundationless.

Soon after the publication of this paper Dr. Jenner, who had long been known as an Ornithologist, was elected a Fellow of the Royal

Society. Soon afterwards he married Miss Catherine Kingscote, of the very antient family of Kingscote of Kingscote in Gloucestershire.

During the interval of his commencing practice at Berkeley and the publication of this paper, it is well known that his mind was almost wholly occupied in abstract and scientific pursuits, more especially Natural Philosophy and History. Dr. Lettsom, in his Oration delivered before the London Medical Society, has recorded the following incident, highly indicative of Dr. Jenner's philosophical bias, and attachment to his native home and family. The domestic character is commonly one of virtue, and, when united with scientific habits, it mostly avoids the clownish rusticity, sottish drinking bouts, and ill-natured love of scandal, which disgrace the society of country towns, because it is night-mared by *ennui*.

"He [Dr. Jenner] happened to dine with a large party at Bath. Something was introduced at the table which required to be warmed by the application of the candle, and doubts were expressed by several persons present, whether the more speedy way would be to keep the flame at a little distance under, or to immerse the substance into it. Jenner desired the candle to be placed near him, and immediately put his finger into the flame, suffering it to remain some time; next, he put his finger above it, but was obliged to snatch it away immediately. '*This, Gentlemen*,' said he, '*is a sufficient test*.' The next day he received a note from General Smith, who had been of the party on the preceding day, and who was, before that time, an utter stranger, offering him an appointment in India, which would ensure him, in the course of two or three years, an annuity of £.3000. The offer was referred to his brother, and our Jenner, from his attachment to him, declined it."

After continuing a successful practice for many years, and possessing, besides, a patrimonial inheritance, Dr. Jenner, in 1792, took out a diploma. Soon afterwards he introduced the practice of applying setons in the temples for the cure of violent ophthalmia, now in use in some of the hospitals, instituted for curing diseases of the eye. The practice is founded upon the theory that a greater external inflamma-

tion contiguous to a less one supersedes it; and that, by increasing or reducing the threads, the inflammation may be regulated at option. Time has now evinced its great utility in that kind of violent ophthalmy which resists ordinary treatment.

About this time Dr. Jenner took possession of a house in Berkeley, now called Chauntry Cottage, from its having once been the residence of the Chantry Priests, and afterwards of the Westons, the only surviving representatives of the Westons Earls of Portland.

It has been observed that a taste for nature and simplicity is so little known as to cause it to be denominated romantic. Owing to the Oriental cast of modern poetry, and the rich, airy decorations which have been annexed to the dwelling-houses of present times, that strong national characteristick of pure taste, Landscape Gardening, or the English style, first introduced by Mason and Wheatley, is now conceived no longer romantic but an indispensable appendage to every reputable mansion. This elegant study was always a favourite amusement of the Doctor; and the certain proof of his success is, that every thing has effect, and not a single feature is formal. The trees and shrubs are now full grown; and the scene, instead of gloomily assimilating a Turkish cemetery, is, in the grand outline of the woody part, an exact fac-simile of a rich theatrical sylvan scene. The tameness of a continuous line of prim firs in snaky undulation is not here seen; but the edge of the curve is broken by elegant projecting trees of lighter tints; and by recesses, exhibiting fine masses of light and shade, and the boles of trees, entwining and intersecting each other in the rich back-ground style of our fine painters. The trees are chiefly of the forest kind, by which alone the laws of the picturesque can be correctly observed. The scale is limited; and therefore any thing more than a simple plan would have converted the shrubbery into a mere inartificial nursery, or a pattern upon china. This elegant woodlet is inhabited by fowls, the burrow or Sheldrake duck, pigeons, and half-domesticated pheasants, which are never killed for the table, but preserved to give a constant bustle of animation to the still life of wood, when not gracefully waving with the vernal zephyr. There are other improvements on the common style. It is mostly usual to cover

dead walls with clematis, creepers, giant-ivy, and other repents; but they have sameness and formality, which are only corrected by the broken irregularity of ruins, Gothic arches, and the miscellaneous grouping of weeds, the only mob which is picturesque out of Flemish painting. A wall against the highway was indispensable for the comfortable feeling of security and domestic privacy; and part of the walk, from necessity, winds closely under this wall. It is therefore chiefly decorated with laurels and roses alternately intermingling, the eye being guided to the light air and unimpeded shrubbery of the opposite side. The object studied on the wall side is mere relief; and by the commixture mentioned there is produced, in the flowering season, an Elysian fairy richness, far superior to a mere nappy rug of sombrous evergreens. With other ornaments usual in shrubberies, one eminent peculiarity is especially noticeable. Dr. Jenner is acquainted with a Clergyman of very original and surpassing taste in two particular departments of picturesque gardening, of exceeding difficulty, especially the first, *viz.* exquisite informal primrose tumps and perfect rustic work. The former is, in general, a mere load of rubbish, shot down and turfed; the latter a mere helter skelter of sticks. But in the Rev. Mr. Ferryman's designs of this kind there is a taste similar to that of rhythm in the prose composition of the antient Classicks. It is, in other words, informal beauty; but it requires a pre-conceived, elegant taste to execute it. Pattern, not form, is essential to pleasure; nor could Creation please unless the Divine Mind had contemplated and included effect. It partakes of the nature of gesture, a thing not without law or rule, but a mere subject of the eye, intuitively comprehended. Under the superintendance of this man of taste was erected a thatched cottage, without the formality of a root-house. The open side of it is covered by an irregular primrosed tump, surmounted by a branchy decayed stump, like a classical trophy, supporting a flaunting honeysuckle. The dead wall is further broken by a rose or two, growing wildly. The roof is overshadowed by the forest trees. The entrance is darkened on the sides, but commands, when a person stands under it, a fine distant view of Stinchcombe Hill, a giant reclining. The jambs of the door-way consist of pollard trees,

meeting, with their jagged heads, in a Gothic arch. The cieling has an effect singularly striking and picturesque. It is vaulted, and formed of sections of the butts of massy trees, exhibiting the rugged knots and excrescences which project from the bark and roots of large oaks, so commonly seen on the banks of hedge-rows. The novelty and rudeness thus pressed into the service of elegant design has a singular and even sublime air. One might suppose it the residence of a Faun or a Dryad, or an Arcadian Deity. The furniture is a rustic chair, composed of the malleable and elastic stems of ivy, tastefully reticulated. The approach to the cottage is, in the scene-painting style, through insulated trees, not close enough for wood, only joining at their heads. Another peculiarity, but in equal good taste, is, that the lawn, though the natural ground is flat, is not level with the walk, but artificially, though imperceptibly, sloped down, in a very trifling degree, like a very low plate. A conservatory nearly adjoins the garden-door. The house is a handsome substantial building, with a good ashler front, and contains every kind of apartment which the eye of Philosophy could desire. All the apartments occupied by the family, dressing-rooms excepted, look out upon the shrubbery. The street front is sashed, but the glass is blackened; and thus Taste and Economy, not always sisterly characters, are made to disguise at least with good breeding their opposite propensities, the former being in the habits of coquetting with Show and Expence, the latter inclined to parsimonious old maidery. These particulars are thus minutely detailed, because curiosity will naturally attach to the spot which has been the residence of a man so eminent.

With respect to Biography during life, friendly statement may of course be partial; but it is almost certain that posthumous statement will not be universally fair, and vindication is always just. One object of this sketch is, to give a real character of the subject in private life, without superseding any future ample work, embracing the Vaccine in all its grand progressions. A taste for scenery confers national benefit; and it is pleasing to verify the affirmation by evidence which cannot be partial, especially as the observations are excellent and weighty in a patriotic view.

"Scenery of extraordinary magnificence forms one of the great features of a country; and, like those local situations which are associated with the memory of events of national importance, possesses somewhat of a public character. In these every one, as a part of the community, feels himself interested; and, as far as the bare facility of inspection is concerned, has an interest, of the enjoyment of which he cannot in justice, using the word in a larger sense, be deprived, although such places should be the property of a few individuals. It would be, besides, most impolitic, with reference both to the private proprietor and the publick, to discourage that opinion of common interest in such situations, which binds by so many agreeable ties every individual to the soil of his country, and to the rest of the community; and stifles the envy which the appearance of vast possessions and wealth in the hands of an individual is apt to generate *."

Dr. Jenner's taste for Natural History, more especially Ornithology, was exhibited in the following petty incident. Opposite the house is a small paddock. This was long occupied by a fine eagle brought from Newfoundland.

In 1794 Dr. Jenner had a severe attack of typhus, and was confined to his house by debility till the spring of 1795. To withdraw himself from the pressure of recurring business, though without a view of permanent residence, he removed, during the seasons, to Cheltenham. There Practice, as a natural result of high medical reputation, was forced upon him. A particular incident occurred, which was locally celebrated in a very extensive degree. Dr. Jenner was called into consultation by a learned Physician in the case of a woman of fashion. Dr. . . . . described her case, as having a tendency to dropsy. She was sitting on her sofa, and was expecting company that evening. The same immediate apprehensions concerning her situation were not entertained by the first Physician, in consultation, as were, in Dr. Jenner's judgment, warranted by the expression of the countenance, and other moribund appearances, to which he had paid particular attention. The prior Physician conceived Dr. Jenner not to be

* Sketch of a Tour in the Highlands of Scotland, 8vo, pp. 75, 76.

speaking in earnest; and when he was assured to the contrary, dissented from Dr. Jenner as to the indications of approaching dissolution. Dr. Jenner, however, retained his apprehensions; and being asked, on leaving the house, by a female domestick, what he thought of the state of her mistress, observed, that it would not surprise him if she died within an hour; and that, at the expiration of that time, he would call to ascertain the result. He did so; and the same servant informed him that her mistress was just dead, and had died at the very minute of the expiration of the hour. This story is interesting, because it exhibits the occasional causes of the fortune of Physicians, which, as Dr. Johnson observes, are more influenced than those of other classes of professional persons by singular and lucky incident. Dr. Jenner, who candidly explained the rationale of his presentiment, without affecting mystery for interested purposes, was amused by the indelible impression and significance, which was attached to the event in public opinion. It certainly laid a groundwork of confidence highly favourable to the Doctor's fame and practice, especially as both were aided by amiable manners and pleasing address.

It was chiefly during these periods of his residence at Berkeley and Cheltenham, because he was not then burthened with the labours, which the Vaccine has generated, that Dr. Jenner used to amuse himself with extemporaneous effusions in poetry, not intended for the press. In this way his taste usually took an epigrammatic turn, but was strictly confined to harmless, gentlemanly facetiousness. As not being written for reputation, specimens are only given, as private letters are often printed, merely to show the habits of the man. Without any intention of imitation on the part of Dr. Jenner, the classical scholar will find in them a manifest resemblance to the Greek Anthologia, which consists more of sportive jeux d'esprits than coruscations of point. They are arrows unpoisoned, and without the lacerating barb. To the good-natured mind they will exhibit a pleasing family picture—a man of genius and philosopher unbending, according to the hacknied story of Agesilaus's nursery amusement, by that sacred altar in the temple of domestic happiness, the fire-side.

EPIGRAM SENT WITH A COUPLE OF DUCKS TO A PATIENT.

I've dispatch'd, my dear Madam, this scrap of a letter,
To say that Miss . . . . . is very much better:
A regular Doctor no longer she lacks,
And therefore I've sent her a Couple of Quacks.

EPITAPH ON AN ASS.

Beneath this huge hillock here lies a poor creature,
So easy, so gentle, so harmless his nature,
On earth by kind Heav'n he surely was sent
To teach erring mortals the road to Content.
Whatever befel him, he bore his hard fate,
Nor envied the steed in his high-pamper'd state.
Though homely his fare was, he'd never repine;
On a dock could he breakfast, on thistles could dine.
No matter how coarse or unsav'ry his sallad,
Content made the flavour suit well with his palate.
Now, Reader, depart, and, as onward you pass,
Reflect on the lesson you've heard from an Ass.

The other is founded upon the well-known prejudice in favour of the Robin Redbreast. The late Powell Snell, Esq of Guiting Grange, had written some verses on the *popular side of the question.* Dr. Jenner, as an Ornithologist, knew the fallacy of the prepossession, and made the following sportive reply. The Author translated it into Latin verse, and both copies were transmitted to Mr. Snell.

ADDRESS TO A ROBIN;
IN ANSWER TO ONE BY CAPT. SNELL.

Audi alteram partem.

Be gone, this instant, from my door!
Nor plague me with thy canting more.
Hop off! I say; nor in this place
Dare shew thy hypocritic face.
Pray dost thou think, ungrateful fellow,
Because thy voice is somewhat mellow,
Or that thou hither com'st assuming
A kind of modesty in pluming;
Wilt thou allure me, whining beggar,
Or my true notions of thee stagger?

TRANSLATION INTO LATIN VERSE.

BY THE REV. T. D. FOSBROKE.

Intermitte novas, lasciva rubecula, fraudes;
Eja age, de nostro limine tolle fugam;
Tolle fugam—en inquam rursus—non te decet,
Fronte sub astuto sollicitare fores. [inquam
Vana avis, incassum libras discrimina vocis—
Incassum tentas voce placere mihi.
Hucne adiens speras pennam sufflare pudicam?
Non placet irato penna pudica mihi.
Tolle fugam, dixi, ni, vana rubecula, fallor;
Insidias tentas insidiasque mihi?

Have I not seen thee, sturdy ruffian,
With impious claw thy father cuffing ?
Seen thee, thou vile impostor, blackguard,
With many a blow thy mother smack hard ?
Strip from her back the downy feather,
Spite of inclemency of weather ?
Nay, threaten her with instant killing,
If thy full platter she put bill in ?
Why then how dar'st thou thus from me
To ask for hospitality ?

Disdainful wretch, when smiling Spring
Bids every Bird tune up and sing;
Though the sweet Orchestra should want ye
To take a part, a soft *Andante ;*
The Lark, who leads the Band, in vain
Solicits thy assisting strain ;
For slily thou leav'st all their chanting,
Deep in the woods to go gallanting.

Long have I known, thy ready knack 'tis
A thousand wily tricks to practise.
Didst thou not use deception vile
A Bard * to cozen and beguile ?
Draw, by a kind of hocus pocus,
His rays poetic to a focus ?
Then craftily divert the flame
To blaze upon thy worthless name ?

Think'st thou I know not, rogue ungrateful,
Of mischief thou hast got a pateful ?
Do qualms of conscience ne'er molest thee ?
No retrospective thoughts infest thee ?
Hast thou not enter'd farmer's houses,
Annoying oft their careful spouses ?
Deform'd their butter, peck'd their cheese,
And robb'd them of their market fees ?
Though ne'er did they deny thy asking,
(Villain hypocritic mask in),
But ever ready were to pour
Around thy head the crumby show'r.
And pray, another thing — but 'death !
Why do I thus consume my breath ? —
Once more I say, Hop off ! — hoh ! hoh !
'Tis well thou thought'st it time to go.
And this I tell thee, little blade,
If ever on my palisade
Again I catch thee — by the Law,
Thy grave shall be Grimalkin's maw !

Te vidi infausto meditantem prælia rostro
Innocuum adversùs tollere bella patrem.[tum
Te vidi immemorem atque ærato fronte para-
Sæva etiam in matris vulnera ferre sinum :
Imo etiam à tergo teneram divellere plumam,
Effundit quamvis candida bruma nives.
Vulnere nec satagis, modo quin si tangeret es-
Impius instantem tu minitare necem. [cam,
Frustra igitur quæris nobis admittier hospes;
Te nostro vetitum est hospitem adesse Lari ?
Vere instante, tepens Zephyricum mittituraura,
Floraque dispergit læta per arva rosas—
Te rogat omne nemus renuentem jungere vo-
Junctis cum gestit vocibus omne nemus,[cem,
Prima choros inter de te qui ferre juvantes
Spernis opem frustra quærit alauda modos.
Urget amor—voces linquis per inhospita tesqua
Gaudens lascivam luxuriare fugam.
Mos tibi versuto (solitas haud nescio fraudes)
Insidias sævis nectere mille modis ;
Pectore de cæco quendam captare poetam
Explicuit veteres fraus tua nota dolos.
Ausus es, O nimium fallax, per carmina vatis
Flammas intra unum consociare focum ;
Nevè aberant artes ; vatis nam poscitur ignis,
Indigno ut vestrum cingat honore caput ?
Mens ingrata tibi ? non te mens conscia tor-
Exagitant ægrum crimina nulla sinum ?[quet?
Sæpius Agricolæ intrâsti, gravis advena, sedes,
Actum est—me miseram—flebilis uxor ait ;
Fœdasti butyrum ; compressi et pondere lactis,
En Corydon rediens nundina sæva dolet.
O! nimium fallax, falsâ insidiosaque larvâ,
Agricolis mos est vota negare tibi ?
Unquam pœnituit certam tibi reddere prædam ?
Unquam pertrito spargere pane domum ?
Plura equidem.—Divorum ast omnia numina
posco,
De te cum ventis cur ita bella gero ?
Inquam, inquam, propera—fuga poscitur—
egrediendum est.
Gaudeo — carpsisti tempora prompta, vale.
Denique stat, repeto—rursus si fraus tua furtim
Per nostra audebit ducere septa viam,
Per Leges, Mores, Superos, Acherontaque juro,
Faucibus Æluri Mors inopina dabit.

* Capt. Snell.

The friends of Dr. Jenner have also considered him as an elegant letter-writer. The following is an extract of one addressed to a Clerical Friend; and, in the opinion of the Author, it proves a great truth, respecting one proper mode of conveying a religious impression, which may assuredly assist revealed instruction; and, with minds of a certain cast (what is called strong sense, always inclined to be too worldly), may succeed, where other methods would fail. Mere revelation was, to the Greeks, foolishness. Miss Hamilton's happy conception of enforcing religious impressions by displaying incidents, suited to the purpose, as they occur in life, is analogous to this recommendation of the Philosopher of Berkeley.

"I fear," says Dr. Jenner, "that you are still teazed by witnessing so frequently the bad morals of the peasantry. Depend upon it, there will be no radical improvement until tuition is conducted upon a principle totally different from that now in use. They know little or nothing of GOD. They hear his sacred name. They are told something about his attributes. They are taught to read the Bible; but nothing is fixed upon the mind. The contact is too light. It touches, like the passing breeze, and is gone. My idea is, that the knowledge of an Almighty Being might be worked into the inmost recesses of the mind during childhood, and so pleasantly incorporated as to preclude the possibility of escape. *Shew them* their Creator by exhibiting His works, and thus they will become sensible of His stupendous power, His wisdom, and His beneficence. All the softer feelings of the soul would be elicited; and depravity would not find a soil in which it could vegetate. What a fine and solid ground would it lay for the Christian System to rest upon!

"This is a mere outline; but I think it will shew you what I wish to see attempted. Religion and Morality must necessarily profit by it, as the plan is intended to bring the Great Creator of the Universe more immediately within our view, more tangible to the senses, than any System for imparting Divine Knowledge hitherto practised. Why should this, the most important branch of science, have stood still for centuries past, while all the rest have been progressively advancing? Divine and moral precepts are now *merely pasted on the foreheads* of

children; a trifling matter pushes them off; but this method, well pursued, would render them fixtures, by drawing them into the interior. Walking in my garden this afternoon, and looking over the wall, I saw a groupe of boys assembled in the Church-yard. They were just discharged from the temporary confinement of the School. There was scarcely one amongst them who spoke to another without the preface of some horrid and blasphemous oath. Now observe — these, for the most part, are boys who are daily learning their lessons at School. Do you think then, at such a time, in such a place, trampling on the sacred mansions of the dead, they could have thus sported with the holy name of God if they had known any thing of His mighty majesty and dominion?"

The fact is, that in nations too populous the necessity of providing for the body, and vulgar, ignorant habits, accompanied, of course, with passion, quite overwhelm the sense of religion or propriety. A sense of comfort, or, at least, facility of subsistence, is essential to abstract considerations; but an educative impression of the Majesty of Deity might, as Dr. Jenner justly supposes, prove a check to profanation of His name, and induce religion. Still the difficulty of subsistence drives every thought to bodily concerns: and, when that is provided, Luxury presents her show-box, which requires more money, and the previous food of grass and hay is deemed by the bipedal jument insufficient without corn. These appetites are operating where excessive population* renders a supply of necessaries more difficult every day, and further augments the bodily concern. Worldly industry thus becomes of sole moment; and to a man who wants a dinner you offer a Bible.

"—— But who can bear a fire in his hand,
By thinking on the frosty Caucasus!" ——

The first promulgation of the Vaccine was in 1798. The first experiment was made in 1796, on a child of the name of Phipps, for

* The Author is aware of Mr. Godwin's powerful reply to Mr. Malthus; but he does not think that the opinion of the latter, as to excess in England, is overthrown, because the exact number of square miles is not correctly ascertained.

whom, being now an adult, Dr. Jenner has built a comfortable cottage, in which he and his family now reside. As the subject of this biographical sketch is only the private life of Dr. Jenner, partly intended to prevent misrepresentation after decease, it cannot be expected that the public and philosophical topick the Vaccine, which requires a volume, can be consistently intermixed. Only one or two remarks shall be made.

When the discovery was first made known, a *stupid* clamour was raised by invidious persons, that Dr. Jenner was not the inventor of the Cow-Pox. How can a man invent a law of Nature? And it might be as wisely said, that the inventor of the steam-engine was not the inventor of steam, and therefore has no merit. The truth is, that the connexion of Small-Pox with Cows is recorded more than a thousand years ago, though the curious fact upon which this affirmation is founded was only a few years back communicated by the Author of this sketch to Dr. Jenner and Mr. Moore, the historian of Small-Pox. Marius or S. Maire, who died in the year 601, reputed the first author in the Pays de Vaud, wrote a Chronicle of his own Times, in which he has recorded the effects of a prevailing Small-Pox *(Variola)*, and notices that it proved fatal to Cows *. — Dr. Jenner was the first who introduced the practice of Inoculation with the Vaccine, and promulgated its prophylactic powers and superior advantages to the variolous process. More was not possible for man to do.

I shall therefore only mention some memorable incidents, hitherto unknown.

When Dr. Wickham was made prisoner in France, our Philosopher was applied to as the fittest person for addressing to Buonaparte a petition soliciting that Physician's liberation. This was at the time of Napoleon's greatest animosity to this Country. It happened thus. The Emperor was in his carriage, and the horses were being changed. The petition was then presented to him. He exclaimed, "Away! away!" The Empress Josephine, who accompanied him, said, "But, Emperor, do you see whom this comes from? Jenner." He changed his tone of voice that instant, and said, "What that man

* Muirhead's Travels, p. 108.

asks is not to be refused;" and the petition was immediately granted. The Ex-Emperor also liberated many others, from time to time, at the request of Dr. Jenner, even whole families. Indeed he never refused any request made by Dr. Jenner, who, of course, observed proper delicacy in not applying too often.

Upon the visit of the Foreign Potentates to this Country, in 1814, our Philosopher had the honour of an audience of the Allied Sovereigns, as well as of that amiable and delightful woman, the deceased and lamented Grand Duchess of Oldenburgh. These interviews are highly honourable to the illustrious parties: in one view exhibiting a patriotic zeal for the propagation of useful knowledge, and, in another, honourably distinguishing those who have devoted their lives to the subject. To invite Dr. Jenner to an interview for the purpose of talking politicks, or general conversation, would have been absurd; and therefore the conversation took that turn which was a flattering mark of respect to the person honoured by it. It was *comme il faut.*

About a month before the arrival of his Imperial Majesty, the late Grand Duchess of Oldenburgh visited the Metropolis. Having found, by means of her travelling Physician, Dr. Back, that Dr. Jenner was in town, the Princess expressed a desire that Dr. J. should be introduced to her. An interview accordingly took place at the Pulteney Hotel. It proved extremely interesting, from the very apposite enquiries made by her Imperial Highness, not only with respect to Vaccination, but various other matters, concerning Natural History and Medicine, in which she knew that Dr. Jenner was deeply experienced. Among other gracious attentions, the Duchess insisted that Dr. Jenner should be seated; and was pleased to remark, that, as he possessed the inventive faculty and great promptitude in philosophical discovery, "was there nothing else which the Doctor could communicate?" The reply was a developement of the cause of Phthisis. Dr. Jenner expressed his fear that he could not give her Imperial Highness a lucid explanation, because it required the use of technical terms. She begged, with a good-natured smile, that he would, notwithstanding, begin; and accordingly he observed to the Princess,

that every thing which is tubercle originated in an hydatid *. To the surprise of Dr. Jenner, he discovered that her Imperial Highness was conversant with the nature of hydatids; and he added, that as we had not yet discovered the means of absorption of these bodies, in which Phthisis Pulmonalis originates, it therefore remains at present an incurable disease. The Duchess, who had lost a much-valued friend by this malady, then took her handkerchief from her pocket and dropped a tear. She resumed her conversation, and remarked, "though you say it knows no remedy at present, yet think what a great point is gained." The conversation continued upon philosophical subjects, and her Imperial Highness astonished the Doctor by the extent of her information. — Dr. Jenner requested her Imperial Highness, when she wrote to her august Mother, to have the goodness to say that he had a grateful remembrance of the kind attention which she shewed him. "*When* I write?"— she replied, "I will write this very evening!"— At parting she said, "Dr. Jenner, you must see the Emperor my brother, who is expected here soon." Dr. Jenner bowed acquiescence and withdrew.

The Emperor arrived, and the promised interview took place in the most gracious form. The Doctor was ushered into a room, which soon after his Imperial Majesty entered alone. He pronounced the words "Dr. Jenner!" (which was returned with a respectful bow), and then advanced and touched his right shoulder. Alexander shortly commenced a discourse upon the astonishing effects of Vaccination in Russia; and Dr. Jenner had the pleasure of hearing him declare that the Vaccine had nearly subdued Small-Pox throughout that country. Dr. Jenner then told the Emperor that he had the highest gratification at hearing such an important fact from his Majesty himself. Dr. Jenner then presented the Monarch with a volume of his own works upon the subject; and added, "that in whatever country Vaccination was conducted in a way similar to that which his Majesty had commanded in the Russian Empire, the Small-Pox must necessarily become extinct." The Emperor then

* A cyst containing serum imperfectly animated, and very commonly found in human and animal dissection.

made some observations which were highly complimentary to Dr. Jenner. He observed, how pleasant must be his feelings when he contemplated what services he had rendered to mankind — "to the world, Sir!" with emphasis. Dr. Jenner replied, that when he reflected upon the benefit of which Providence had made him the instrument, nothing could exceed his satisfaction. After a short pause, the Emperor said, "You have received, Sir, the thanks, the applause, the gratitude of the world." Dr. Jenner answered, "Your Majesty, I have received the thanks and the applauses of the world." But he did not echo the third position, from a regard to truth. The Emperor then fell back a little, drew himself up with an altered countenance, and his face became suffused. A pause ensued; and Dr. Jenner resumed the conversation by observing, that local gratitude he had experienced abundantly; but (pointing to a diamond ring upon his finger) never in a more gratifying form than in the token then before his Majesty's view, as being presented by his august Mother, the Empress Maria. The Grand Duchess had just joined, and, her tender feelings always permanent, said, "Ah! my Mother!" and then dropped a tear. She added, "I wish, Dr. Jenner, that you would give the Emperor an account of your discovery respecting Pulmonary Consumption." Dr. Jenner made the effort; but feeling a little embarrassment, did not do it in so perfect a manner as he could have wished. Upon this, her Imperial Highness observed, in her usual good-natured tone, "Dr. Jenner, you do not make this so clear to my Brother as you did to me, at our late interview." He replied, "Madam, it is my misfortune to be of a nervous constitution; and your Imperial Highness must not be surprised if a feeling of this sort should assail me at the present moment." The Emperor then exhibited the most amiable condescension, and knowledge of the human mind. Taking Dr. Jenner by the hand, with a good-natured smile, he held it till the Doctor's embarrassment had disappeared. Dr. Jenner then resumed his narrative concerning Hydatids, and made it particularly clear to his Majesty. A desultory conversation then ensued, concerning habits, which related to health. The Emperor remarked, that some of our English customs

must be very injurious. Dr. Jenner then enquired to what his Majesty was pleased to allude. [It was the day after the Civic Feast.] "For example," said the Emperor, "your sitting for hours in the same room where you have been eating. I do not allude to wine, but your breathing the effluvia arising from the viands." Dr. Jenner replied, that it was too common, but not a general custom. Soon after this, the Emperor and the Grand Duchess withdrew. The conversation during this interview was conducted in English, which his Majesty spoke with fluency and elegance. In a few days afterwards Count Orloff, with whom Dr. Jenner had been long acquainted, from attendance on his Countess, waited on Dr. Jenner, and asked him if a Russian order would be acceptable to Dr. Jenner, should his Majesty be graciously pleased to confer it. Dr. Jenner replied, that he thought this exclusively belonged to men of perfect independence. The Count expressed his surprise at Dr. Jenner's not possessing a pecuniary independence. Dr. Jenner answered, that he possessed a village fortune, though not what came under the general acceptation of the term independence.

By appointment Dr. Jenner waited on the King of Prussia. The Doctor came rather late, and the King was in haste to go to church. His Majesty, however, gave Dr. Jenner a very polite reception, and apologized for being under the necessity of going to church; but made, as did the other Sovereigns, a general acknowledgment of the obligations of the world to Dr. Jenner. Either a child of this King, or of the Emperor of Austria, was the first Royal child inoculated in Europe. After the King was gone, the Crown Prince and many other of the illustrious Foreigners honoured Dr. Jenner with particular notice, and gave him a pressing invitation to Berlin. The Crown Prince is known to be a young man of very brilliant pretensions.

Dr. Jenner's next presentation was to Blücher. He was very polite, and rather facetious. Before the General entered the room, a Turkish tobacco-pipe (a Turkey bowl with an alder stick) was brought in by a servant, upon a velvet cushion. An exchange of compliments took place.

The next interview was with Platoff. To the astonishment of Dr. Jenner, who was accompanied by Dr. Hamel (a physician born on the banks of the Don, and acquainted with the Cossack language), the Count proved to be quite a polished gentleman, had a knowledge of Vaccination, and practised it. He said, "Sir, you have extinguished the most pestilential disorder that ever appeared on the banks of the Don."

After this interview Dr. Jenner returned to Cheltenham, where he had the misfortune to lose his excellent Lady. In a short time after this event he removed to Berkeley, where he now resides in elegant retirement.

In making a conclusion to this sketch, the Author finds considerable difficulty, so far as regards giving public satisfaction. Panegyrick bears the air of partiality, of suppression of faults, and exaggeration of real claims; but nothing is more true than that, with regard to public characters, their friends can only see them off the stage; and that it is a duty for such friends to establish the claim of personal worth in such characters, on account of the numerous mean propensities to degrade them, originating in bad human passions. They who know Dr. Jenner can say that he is a man of consummate knowledge of the world, with good taste in life and the arts, of plain manners and habits, but accompanied with the exhibition of genteel modes of living; and, as his society has been at option that of high rank, his taste and judgment are founded upon correct models of elegant sentiment and refinement. His conjugal conduct was moulded upon the proper standard, so little known and practised, of gaining permanent regard by first bestowing it; for Tacitus well said, that nothing can purchase esteem but the previous donation of the thing itself. In commerce with the world at large, the leading feature of the character of our Philosopher has been a generous spirit of patronage. The Author of this sketch could illustrate this in many points; but as there is a delicacy due to living characters, he should have been much distressed as to details, had it not been for the respectable authority of Dr. Lettsom, who speaks as follows:

"In tracing a character thus rendered illustrious, the mind dwells upon it with increased pleasure, in contemplating the combination of moral sentiment with practical virtue; where the generous passions are subservient to sound reason, which directs them to promote public good and private happiness, as Fenelon well defines: '*La vertu en reglant les passions, n'eteint point le sentiment.*'

"My respectable auditory will permit me to illustrate this sentiment by tracing the beneficence of our amiable and absent associate.

"An ingenious but unfortunate member of this Society, after many ineffectual struggles to surmount pecuniary difficulties, fell a victim to disease, and left a widow and children pennyless. From early friendships I was desirous of raising a subscription to enable them to put on a covering more desirable than sackcloth and ashes. I addressed a letter to Dr. Jenner on the subject, and specified the amount of the donation I wished him to devote. Suffice it to say, that he thanked me for affording him an opportunity of assisting objects of distress, and sent me a sum exceeding my request.

"A few days afterwards he intimated to me that he feared that a respectable Physician, whose name on this subject shall never pass my lips, laboured under pecuniary embarrassment. I expressed my willingness to offer my mite in conjunction with him. We soon, however, turned the conversation to another subject. Jenner has a heart, not of stone or frigid clay; and I venture to say, that the object of our conversation was the companion of his couch; for, early in the morning, I received a letter, which is too laconic to fatigue you in hearing:

'I write this note just to propose an amendment with respect to the 'sum for the use of our friend. Will you let it be 50 instead of 30 'guineas?'—(Yes.) 'E. JENNER.'

"I may here observe, that not any part of these memoirs is immediately derived from our distinguished associate. From his friends I have drawn my principal information. The last to whom I applied on such an occasion, though known to me merely by correspondence, favoured me with some traits of his beneficence in the following words:

" 'As for his generosity, it is constant and unbounded. It is not like 'an intermitting spring, which flows by starts, and, as it were, by 'caprice; but it resembles a perennial fountain, which ever gladdens 'the verdant plains, and never disappoints them of their expected 'refreshment. Yet although his generosity never intermits, its stream 'is sometimes poured forth with an unusual flood; an instance of 'which, in his offer of £.1000 to equip a vessel for the purpose of 'introducing the Vaccine Inoculation into the East Indies, when the 'parsimony of Government neglected to do it.' "

To this account by Dr. Lettsom one anecdote shall be added. Dr. Jenner possesses some farms, within a quarter of a mile's walk, one of which is fitted up and stocked for the accommodation of a male and female servant.

I shall close this tribute of justice to the private character of Dr. Jenner with the following passage of Cicero:

" Credo propterea, quod, quibus in rebus interesse non possumus, in his, operæ nostræ vicaria, *fides amicorum* supponitur: quam qui lædit, oppugnat omnium commune præsidium: et quantum in ipso est, *disturbat vitæ societatem.* Non enim possumus omnia per nos agere." *Pro Sext. Rosc.—Opera, ed. Lond.* 1681, *fol. tom. II. p.* 200, *b.*

THE END.

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